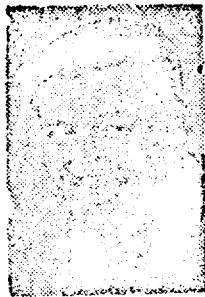


27 June 1972



Paul Crume's

Big D

AT TIMES, it seems that the Republicans have more security now than they can handle.

As all the experts say, it is bungled security. First, a security man for the Republican organization is arrested with a bunch of men trying to burglarize and wire-tap the Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington. Apparently, they were trying to steal the Democratic Party.

Bungling is the word. Who in the world would want to steal the Democratic Party in its present state?

All those documents they were going to photograph probably said: "Sir, Your Account is overdrawn \$9,000,000, and unless we reach some agreement for payment, we will have to foreclose.

The fact that there isn't anything to foreclose on is the only thing in recent years that has made the Democratic Party viable, to use a fashionable word.

NOW REPUBLICAN security may have tried to silence Martha Mitchell, which is bungling if there ever was bungling.

Mrs. Mitchell has tearfully complained that she was locked up in a luxurious dungeon in California, one presumably recommended by Duncan Hines, and that when she tried to telephone out, a Republican security guard tore the phone off the wall.

Since Child Harold John Mitchell did not the Dark Tower come running, she said she is going to leave Child Harold until he gets over the Nixon

election witchcraft.

We accept Mrs. Mitchell's story. She has been one of the few lively people in a dull gray Washington. She is a hair-trigger talker who has the habit of raising questions. An administration in power never wants questions raised. It has the theory that if questions are never raised, they will go away.

Mrs. Mitchell's threat of temporarily leaving her husband doesn't seem that important because he wasn't there to leave. He was away trying to add to that 10 million he has for Nixon and trying to explain Henry Kissinger to the button-shoe Republicans.

Still, Mrs. Mitchell is a nice woman, and if she had called me, I would have rushed to her defense, now that J. Edgar Hoover is dead.

REPUBLICAN SECURITY raises important policy questions, however. If all these security people are out stealing the Democratic Party and tearing out Mrs. Mitchell's telephone, who is watching the White House? That's what the Democrats want to steal.

The administration should also remember that a Republican has his civil rights, even if he is a member of the minority. A Republican is just as entitled to free speech as a member of the Black Caucus or the Ku Klux Klan, even though he may not seem to be. Mrs. Mitchell will take care of this. She is free speech incarnate.

The last question is: Why do they turn former CIA people out on the public?